

Attorney Docket No. 06530.0314-00000

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Application No. 10/808,427  
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**FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY**  
**NOT FOR ENTRY INTO THE RECORD**

3. Discussion of certain distinguishing features between the cited references and disclosed embodiments of the invention (as shown on page 3 of this paper).

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**DISTINGUISHING FEATURES FOR DISCUSSION**

(1) Disclosed embodiments of the invention store an end effector and/or an elongate member within grooves of a handle portion (e.g., a spool) that also causes activation of the end effector. The need for an additional part for storage is eliminated. This feature is neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references.

(2) Disclosed embodiments of the invention include a spool having a groove that accommodates multiple loops of the flexible, elongated member. This feature also is neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references. In contrast, Fig. 2 of DiBernardo, for example, discloses each of the alleged grooves accommodating only a single alleged loop.

(3) The spool according to the embodiments of the disclosed invention includes a proximal portion and a distal portion connected together by a central portion. A plurality of grooves is defined by the proximal portion, and another plurality of grooves is defined by the distal portion. At least one of the plurality of grooves and at least one of the another plurality of grooves are circumferentially aligned with each other and are discontinuous with the central portion. This feature is illustrated in, for example, Fig. 3 of this application, wherein groove 212 and groove 222 are circumferentially aligned with each other and are discontinuous with a central portion 230. This feature also is neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references.